

**Town of Amherst Center for Senior Services
Representatives' Council Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 9:02am. Motion to accept September 20th minutes by Sally Clements, seconded by Kate Wagner.

Present: Del Szczesniak, President; Jim Bardot; Bruce Brown; Sally Clements; Teresa Hayes; Bob Peluso; Ed Sapienza; Linda Schott; Kate Wagner; Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Youth & Recreation; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Jodi Kwarta, Director of Volunteers, Amherst Center for Senior Services

Advisory Board Report from Del Szczesniak: University Express courses have begun. The classes are well attended at both the Senior Center & the Northwest Community Center. Our kitchen manager, Donna Muck, is retiring. A lunch will be held in her honor. We will be using a new version of “My Active Center”. Classes will be available to teach members how to use it. We are looking to hire an additional program director.

Representative Reports:

Am-Center Photography Club (Barbara Emer): No report.

Amherst Senior Singers (Carol Mayer): The group is pleased to welcome new member, Richard Schultz, joining the tenor/bass section. Our group’s performance at the “Community Sing-Along” was well performed, well attended & well received. 50 people joined in the festivities. We were asked to come back in the spring & eagerly look forward to this new singing engagement. On November 9th we will honor our Veterans in the Senior Center dining room. We have put together a patriotic sing-along to recognize & thank our Veterans. We are still seeking at least 3 more sopranos & the group misses practicing in classroom 2. Our microphones are still “shorting out” & we are in need of a new one. The group suggested that new members receive a listing of “Must Do’s” that would include: Always keying into the building upon arrival, pre-registering for all classes, lunches, dinners & activities, contacting group leaders to observe or join clubs & the importance of entering volunteer hours into the computer. A non-related concern was shared: the Center’s members are fearful that the programs in place now will shift to different locations & the convenience of coming to one full inclusive facility will be dramatically disrupted. The members would like confirmation that this is not the future scenario that is to unfold. Tammy & Mary-Diana addressed this concern & assured everyone that our building would remain a Senior Center.

Board Game Club (Ed Sapienza): The group is tackling more ambitious games. They get 6-8 members at their Wednesday & Thursday meetings. In the near future, Thursday night games will be moved to Wednesday night.

Dinner Club (Sylvia Stachura): No Report.

Duplicate Bridge (Bruce Brown): Nothing new to report.

Euchre (Bob Peluso): The club continues to grow. They had 3 new members last week & 1 yesterday.

Genealogy Club (Sally Clements): Club attendance has been close to room capacity. Members have been receiving assistance to set-up their own accounts on myactivecenter.com when needed. The club will begin to use the Center’s list of pre-registered members.

Knitting Club (Mary Lou Urban): No Report

Mah Jong (Hillary Hurwitz): No Report.

Pool (Elaine Pond): No Report.

Rocky Blues Band (Dave Weiss): No Report.

Rummikub (Linda Schott): The club is growing into a much larger group. Everyone seems to enjoy the game.

Stained Glass (Linda Julicher): No Report.

Tuesday Afternoon Music Club (Teresa Hayes): The speaker system still needs to be repaired in the music room. The club is looking for an experienced drummer. They are following “Covid Smart” procedures including spreading out & no sharing of mics or equipment.

Upholstery Club (Kate Wagner): The club is doing well & increased attendance limits space availability. Most have registered for the semester. The sewing machine keeps moving on its own.

Walking Club (Jim Bardot): Sue Clark has resigned from the club. A new co-leader has been identified & will meet with Jodi shortly.

Report from Melissa Abel, Director: (Not in attendance)

- All questions should be held until the end of the reports.
- Questions should be referred to the appropriate staff & may be addressed at any time.
- Club leaders are asked to submit a brief report to be included in the minutes. Please keep report brief & use the form that we supply.
- Meetings are scheduled from 9-10:00am. To be aware of everyone’s valuable time, please adhere to this time frame (or less).
- This week we say goodbye to Donna Muck & wish her well in her retirement. We are still in the process of finding her replacement.
- Early voting is October 28th-November 5th (9am-5pm on weekends & 12pm-9pm on weekdays). It will be held in the Wellness Center (formerly Adult Day).

Report from Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator: Upcoming activities include The Senior Expo, Ask the Candidates & the vaccine clinic. “MyActiveCenter” changes will be coming & instructional classes will be offered. Some programs & services will be moving to other locations.

Report from Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Youth & Recreation:

We are looking for fulltime maintenance staff so that NWACC can be open Saturdays & more evenings. Membership fees will be increasing in 2024 & non-residents will no longer have the lifetime option.

Report from Jodi Kwarta, Director of Volunteer Services:

- **Ready Academy:** An informational meeting was held last week & a list of opportunities was given to students in an effort to make some matches. A “Meet & Greet” will then be scheduled at the Center.
- **Gift Shop:** Sales are up due to loads of new merchandise.
- **Cafe:** 3 new volunteers have been recruited. They will train as substitutes in the next couple of weeks.
- **Bakers Rack Sale:** Sales have resumed and \$135 was made last month. Proceeds go to the Center.
- **Hot Dog Sales:** Our final sale of the season will take place on Nov.6th, weather permitting.
- **Club Sale:** Sales will take place on Nov. 14th & 15th (Tues. 12-4 & Wed. 9-1). The Art Club will participate for the first time.
- **Clubs:** Some clubs have experienced growing pains with leadership changes or schedule changes but we’re working through them on an individual basis. The clubs that experienced an overflow of members showing up in early September (Camera club & Book club) seem to have leveled off & there’s some breathing room. Amherst Senior Singers will perform a Veterans Day program on Thursday, Nov.9 at 11:00am. Indian Senior Citizens Teas will be taking a break until March of next year.

Questions & Comments:

- A survey will be sent out to Rep Council leaders & co-leaders.
- The “Member at Large” position was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53am. Motion made by Kate Wagner, seconded by Linda Schott. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Jacobs